Passenger load factor on Delhi- Ahmedabad route

*180. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that passenger load factor on Delhi-Ahmedabad-Delhi route is more than the available capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether inspite of more demand of seats on this lucrative sector, the Air India is using smaller ATR aircrafts;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to deploy Airbus or Boeing Aircrafts in view of heavy load factor on this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, airlines are free to operate on any route depending on their commercial judgement, as long as they fulfill the criteria laid down in the route dispersal guidelines.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Modernisation of Chennai Airport

1212. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of modernisation of the Chennai Airport;

(b) by when the modernisation work is likely to be completed;

(c) whether Government proposes to expand and modernise the Madurai and Trichy Airports as well in Tamil Nadu to increase air traffic there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The following developmental works are in progress at Chennai International Airport with schedule date of completion January, 2011:

(i) Development of Kamraj Domestic Terminal, (ii) Expansion of Anna International Terminal, (iii) Face lifting of existing terminal, (iv) Expansion of secondary runway, (v) parallel taxi track; and (vi) Construction of parking bays. (10 nos.)

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Various works have already been completed at Madurai airport namely, installation/commissioning of Instrument Landing System (ILS), strengthening of runway upto 7500 ft. and other associated works. Further, construction of new integrated terminal building complex at Madurai has also been taken up with expected date of completion by December, 2009. At Trichy airport, various development works like new integrated terminal building complex, strengthening of runway upto 8018 ft. and other allied works have been completed. In addition, further extension of runway have been planned for both the airports.